

ge 1965 Alumni on Octo-
ation on "Meet the Saints"
and the publication of our

useum/archives and help
y of our Amarillo Diocese.
arrange your next special
Ann Weld Curator



History of Borger

THE CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Diocese of Amarillo

806-383-2243 + Fax 806-383-8452
P. O. Box 5644 + Amarillo, TX 79117-5644
Museum 806-381-9866
Email: achs@amadio.org

VOLUME THREE

FALL

2015

Program November 1st : Meet the Saints



**The Diocesan Museum is open
Friday mornings from**

8:30 am to 11:30 am

**By appointment for any school or
church group**

Catholic Historical Society
Officers/Board Members

Bishop Patrick Zurek - Honorary Chair

Susan Garner - President/Editor

Msgr. Norbert Kuehler - Vice-President

Vacant - Secretary

Ann Weld - Treasurer/Curator

Larry Gray	Board
Jim Jordan	Board
Jan McCoy	Board
Peggy Newcomb	Board
Rev. Anthony Neusch	Board
Rev. Francisco Perez	Board
Rev. Scott Raef	Board
Jane Roberts	Board
Sandy Riney	Board

Beginnings of Borger

If one wished to go back far enough in the history of the Catholic Church in the territory that now comprises the parish of St. John, Borger, Texas, he would find that perhaps Friar Juan Padilla of the Coronado Expedition traveled through here about the year 1541 on his way to Kansas, or in his travels to and from over the Panhandle on his expedition to the seven golden cities of the Quivera.

From 1541 to 1924 there was very little missionary activity here. For centuries this was the happy hunting ground of the Indians, who had no difficulty keeping well fed on the countless herds of buffalo that roamed the flats of the Panhandle. Tascosa, which is in the parish of Dalhart, Texas, was perhaps the first place nearest here which had a resident priest. In the parish of St. John Borger, however, there was no resident priest till the year 1935. Previous to 1924 only about fifteen families lived in Hutchinson County, where Borger is the chief city, with Stinnett, across the Canadian River, the county seat.

One of the first families to move into the territory that was Catholic in the best sense of the word was the O'Loughlins. John lived in Spearman about forty miles north of Borger in the territory comprising this parish. They were visited occasionally by Father J. J. Dolje, who lived in Umbarger, Texas, who used to make most of this territory with buggy and donkeys. They had a neighbor near Perryton, likewise in this parish territory, whose name was Condon and a Catholic. Perryton was about twenty-five miles north of Spearman. Nora W. Condon, who held the properties that belonged to her uncle, worked for the Catholic Charities in Washington, D. C. These were the only two old families that we know of lived in the territory north of Borger before Borger was born.

Borger became a Station, that is to say, a place without a church, regularly visited, about the year 1925. The first baptism recorded in the Parish Register was Patricia Francis Bassett, March 27, by Father J. H. Krukkert. Father Krukkert resided in St. Francis, Texas, about thirty-five miles from Borger.

It was not long between the times that Borger was a station and a Mission. One of the first Catholics to move into the place was Jack Bauman who came in 1925. Oil was discovered in 1924. By 1926 there were about five churches established, the Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, Christian and Nazarene. *C. F. Henderson's thesis on the History of Borger.* Some of the old-timers state that there were about fifteen thousand souls living in and about Borger during the boom. At present there are ten thousand in Borger and about four thousand in Phillips, four miles out of Borger. The city of Borger was opened on March 8, 1926. As with most boom towns vice was rife in the beginning. Each vice was known as a line, and there were lines of bootleg, dope, houses of ill repute, graft, etc. The National Guard was called in twice and it is estimated that there were about thirty persons killed during the boom days. The town, now, however, is church-minded, about twenty percent of all the people being regular church-goers.

Noteworthy laymen who lived here about that time were Ed and Francis Dunningan, Mrs. Matt Stiffler, D.C. Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Heaton, Mr. and Mrs. J. Manning, A. E. and George Herrmann, Ed. Lewis, Mike and, ED and Joe Roach and the aforementioned J. Bauman.

Of the fifteen thousand in and around Borger during the boom days there must have been a great number of Catholics. The precise number cannot be estimated because these oil people were working sometimes fifteen hours a day. It is safe to say that about a hundred attended Mass on Sunday, of which about seventy-five came regularly. The Catholic population was cosmopolitan.

The first church was built in 1927. This was a very poor building of one by twelve planks covered with tar-paper. Mass had been said in private dwellings, at Gray's Boarding House, at Nell's Boarding house and at the American Theater.

Priests in charge are mostly determined from the Church Register under the several entries under Baptism, Marriages, etc. Father Krukkert who resided in St. Francis, made his first entry on March 27, 1927. The following priests all resident in Amarillo: Father Edward Clinton, Father E. McFadden, Father J. Steinlage, Father B. O'Brien, Father Gabriel Diamante, S.A. Father W. F. Bosen, Father Steinlage appears again. Father A. Quante became resident priest on September 27, 1934.

As stated above the church was a very rough building. Bishop Gerken came here and told the people that they must have a church even though this was but a boom town and the possibility was that the town would move out after the boom. Mr. D. C. Kennedy, one of the first here, mentioned above, gives the following description of the first church: It was like a box-car, with a rounded roof, made of 22 foot length one by twelve boards, covered with tar-paper, put up by the parishioners. There were no side rooms for sacristies. The visiting priest usually went to a hotel or stayed overnight at the home of one or other of the parishioners.



Beginnings in Borger: Identifiable in photo, second from left, Bishop Rudolph A. Gerken, first Bishop of the Diocese of Amarillo, Father John Krukkert and Father John J. Dolje. Both Fathers Krukkert and Dolje were indefatigable missionaries from Holland, according to Sister Nellie Rooney. (WTC Photo courtesy of The Catholic Museum, Amarillo)

The priest in charge at the time of the building of the church was Father Krukkert. Its cost was about \$1000.00. The money was raised by contacting the Catholics and some of the non-Catholics in the territory. So far as we know the contributors were the same as the people mentioned above. Others were Walt Cluny, Homer Gray, Mary Guickin, J. J. Conley, E. French, P. Kelly, F. J. Katsch, F. J. Baker, J. J. McGrat, Joe Gaden, etc. We can name one of the non-Catholic contributors, and he is Bill Kelly of Pampa, Tex.

The church has three lots, 110' by 50'. Lots 1, 2, 3 in Block 18 in the Isom Addition. Lots were acquired on Sept. 25, 1926 for \$1000.00 from J. F. Weatherly et al to Rt. Rev. J. P. Lynch. Transferred from J. P. Lynch to Rt. Rev. R. A. Gerken, Bishop of Amarillo on January 3, 1928.

The church was built in 1926, by Dec. 24, as by Miss Henderson in *History of Borger*.

Second church, present building, was built in 1929. Judging from the entries in the Church Register, Father Clinton was then in charge of the building of the church, although Mr. Kennedy is quite sure that Father Krukkert was in charge.

The present church is a frame, oblong building, 56' by 30', with a V shape, slanting roof, having a small steeple, surmounted by a cross.

The church cost \$2500 from the Extension Society plus \$917.72 raised by voluntary contributors of the place.

Improvements, exteriorly, consisted in placing an iron-pipe fence and trees. Interiorly, in the acquiring of a new metal tabernacle, new baptismal font, velvet drapings, two new pews, a new vestry for the priests, a new vestry for the altar boys. The furnishings of the church were altar, altar-rail, statues of the Sacred Heart on a small altar on the north side of the sanctuary, and a statue of the Blessed Virgin on the south side altar, a confessional and an organ.

Father Gabriel placed the velvet drapings behind the altars about the year 1932. Father Daly placed the two new pews and the priests' vestry. Father Washila placed the new tabernacle and the baptismal font and the altar boys' vestry.



There is no record of the cost of the pews, and the priests' vestry. The labor was furnished by the parishioners and the materials to a great extent were contributions. There is no record of the cost of the drapes. The tabernacle cost \$150.00 and the baptismal font about \$90.00. The vestry for the boys cost ten dollars.

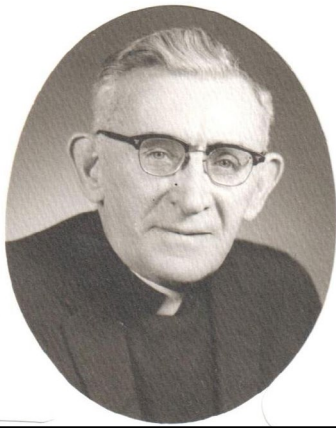
The seating capacity of the church is 120.

The Priests' house was built in 1935, completed on April 20, and formally opened on April 22. Father Quante was in charge and the cost was \$3422.00 (hall included)

The Hall purchased at the same time with the Rectory. It is really one with the rectory, having been one long building, purchased from the Empire Gas and Fuel Co., of Pampa, Texas

Rev. Walter Washila 1942

A passer-by, seeing a man in work clothes nailing boards and tar paper, asked what he was doing. "I'm building a church," he replied. It was Father Krukkert.



Rev. Edward Clinton

A letter to Bishop Gerken from Father Edward Clinton...

Right Reverend and dear Bishop:

As you know, our little church of St. John, at Borger, has just been completed, and the parish being only a very small and poor mission, we have nothing whatever in the way of the necessary vestments for the church services.

Our little congregation, who have scant worldly goods or possessions have already taxed themselves to the limit of their means to finance the actual erection of the church building, and since they are now heavily in debt for this, it is practically useless to call upon them for any further help at the present time.

Therefore, in our extreme need we are appealing to your Lordship for assistance to obtain for us, perhaps, the needed vestments for the Sacrifices of the Mass, namely: the red, white, green, black and purple, and also a Cope and a Veil.

Speaking for myself and also for the congregation of St. John's church, I will say that anything your Lordship may be able to do for us in this matter will be appreciated more than we can express adequately.

September 18, 1928

St. John's Parish in Borger traces its origins back to the boom-town days of the 1920's when oil gave west Texas a tremendous spirit of growth.

The discovery of petroleum reserves in the more vacant tracts of West Texas proved to be a real catalyst for the spirit of growth. Drillers found deposits of major significance in both northern and southern parts of the original Diocese of Amarillo.

Prospectors discovered reservoirs of gas, helium and oil in Hutchinson, Carson and Gray out lies in the Panhandle, and shortly thereafter, oilmen sought out the petroleum abundance of the vast territory north and west of San Angelo.

The Panhandle first showed promise as an oil producing territory in 1915 after an Oklahoma professor, Charles N. Gould, conducted a geological survey along the Canadian River. In 1916, two enterprising prospectors, M. C. Nobles and T. Moore of Amarillo, enlisted the aid of Gould in their search for oil in the Canadian River Valley.

Their efforts brought success in 1918 when their drillers discovered the huge Panhandle Gas Field, but the initial development of the field proceeded slowly. Drillers struck oil in 1921, some of the oil geologists felt that the Panhandle was not worth the investment because of the presence of large granite formations indicating that only meager deposits of oil lay under the ground.

Nevertheless, the oil boom could not be forestalled, and people, money and material arrived in the fields as if drawn by a magnet. Lester F. Sheffy, an observer of times, commented thusly:



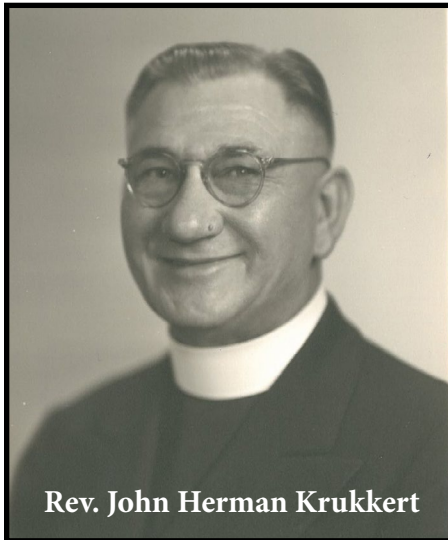
Charles N. Gould

The development of the oil industry in the Panhandle was accompanied by a rapid increase in population. Panhandle towns doubled and trebled their population and mushroom towns grew up overnight.

"Hutchinson county, a ranching county in 1925, became a land of oil derricks and mobile population centers in 1926. Isom-Borger-Phillips became a bustling hive of 16,000 souls in a twelve month period."

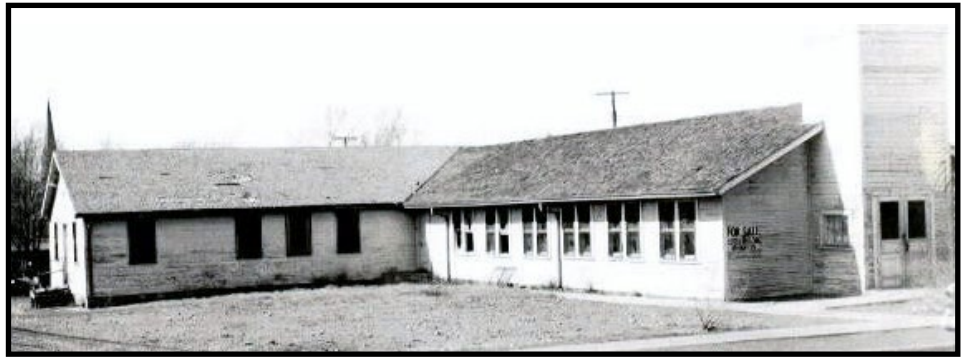
"Oil Camps sprang up along the Canadian River Valley. In 1926 the Panhandle was second only to Chicago in railway, freight tonnage on the Santa Fe lines, and Amarillo became a booming business center for the oil business."

Borger's first Catholic church had its rude beginnings in 1926 when a Dutch priest, the Rev. J. H. Krukert, pastor of St. Francis, journeyed to the boom town to investigate its possibilities. He walked through the busy streets talking to workers, storekeepers, bums, cowboys, and anyone else who would listen to his inquiries.



Rev. John Herman Krukkert

His search yielded a small number of Catholics, and he began to hold services for them in the Rig Theater. The theater soon burned down, but Fr. Krukkert purchased some land that had a small tarpapered building situated on it. This building became the first St. Johns church, but it was better known as either the “Bunkhouse Church” or the “Tar Paper Church.” Fr. Krukkert soon began discussions with his congregation about building a new church, but the talks went nowhere because a rig builder insisted that Borger would not last for five years. Others agreed, and thus the Catholic outpost in Borger had to remain as a shack for the time being. The rude temporary building could seat



about 100 people in its rough pews. Occasionally, coins from the collection would fall through the large cracks in the floor. When Bishop Gerken first came to Borger, the Presbyterian family of Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Kelley loaned the “host” chair of their dining room suite to serve as the bishop’s throne.

At another time, Fr. Krukkert was offering the Mass when the fury of a sandstorm began to lash the building. The participants heard the sound of materials being torn loose and feared the roof would blow away. A number of them quickly went outside and soon the sound of hammers mixed with the wailing of the wind and the Latin of the service inside.

After two years, the parishioners built a new church and dedicated it in November, 1928. At that time, Fr. Edward Clinton visited Borger, but by 1930 he was transferred to White Deer and priests from Price College came up.

The newly ordained Rev. Wilfred Bosen was one of the men assigned to this route. Usually he drove up to Borger on Saturday afternoon, taking with him one or two of the students from Price to serve as altar boys. After evening confessions, he spent the night in Borger and held services at 8:00 a.m. before driving to Panhandle for a second Mass.

In those days blinding dust storms frequently caught him in the open and the dust interfered with his religious liturgies when it sifted through the cracks of the church, to the discomfort of the congregation.

Another priest who had this assignment was Rev. John Steinlage, whose 1931 Easter Mass undoubtedly has the record of the longest Mass in the diocese. He started the High Mass at 10 a.m., but shortly before the Epistle, he summoned his altar boy, Jim Payton, then 16, to run an unusual errand.

At the sermon, the embarrassed priest admitted to the parishioners that he had forgotten to bring the hosts from Panhandle and that Payton had gone to get them. Fr. John then proceeded to read the Passion entirety, and gave a resounding sermon on the Resurrection. The choir sang its complete repertoire.

Meanwhile, young Payton had raced down to Panhandle, but when he got to church he discovered that he did not have the key. Undaunted, he simply broke in and was promptly arrested by the alert Panhandle police, who were hard pressed to believe his story.

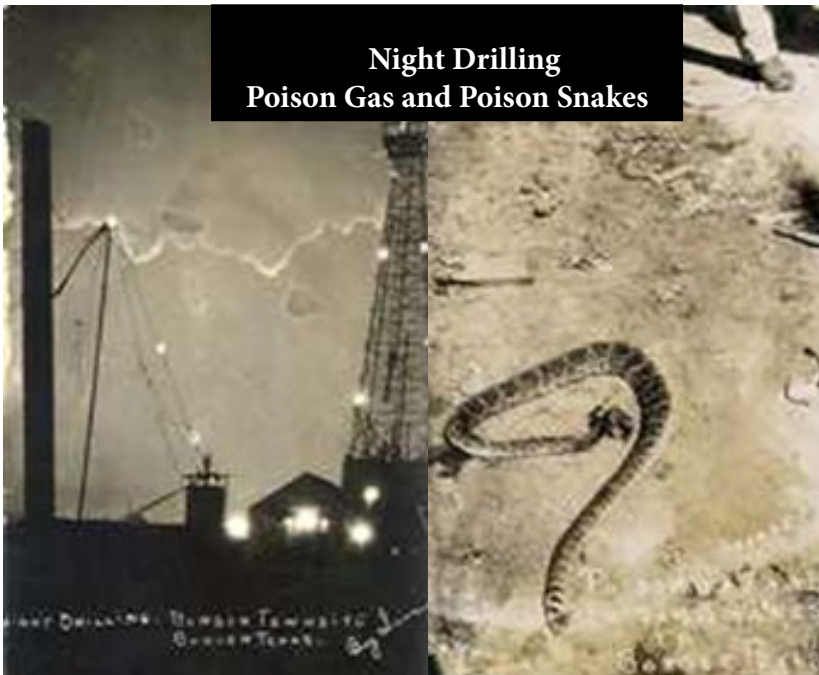
A local Catholic layman secured his release and, hosts in hand, he raced back to Borger. Mass finally ended at 1:30 that afternoon.

Rev. Andrew Quante became the first resident pastor in Borger, in 1934. He was followed by Father James Daly in 1938, Walter Washila in 1939, Charles Knapp in 1942 and Matthew Schaffle in 1946.



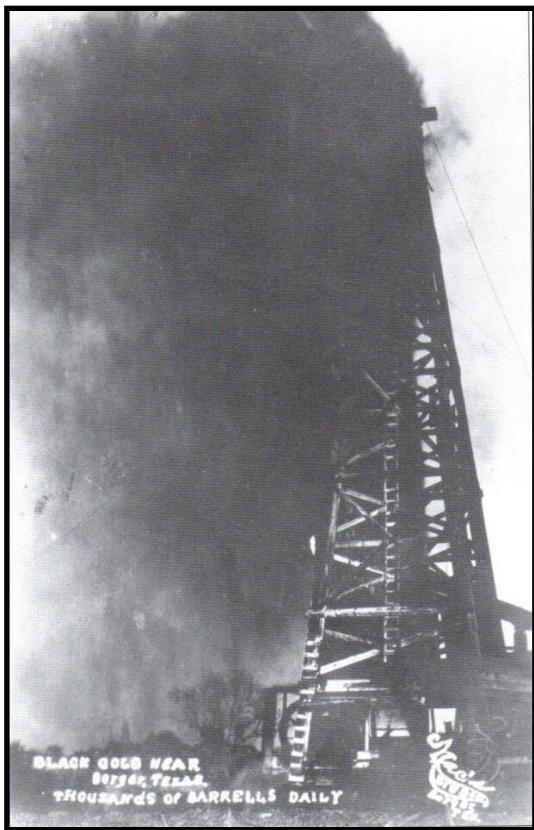
Rev. John Steinlage

Night Drilling Poison Gas and Poison Snakes



Dedication Principals

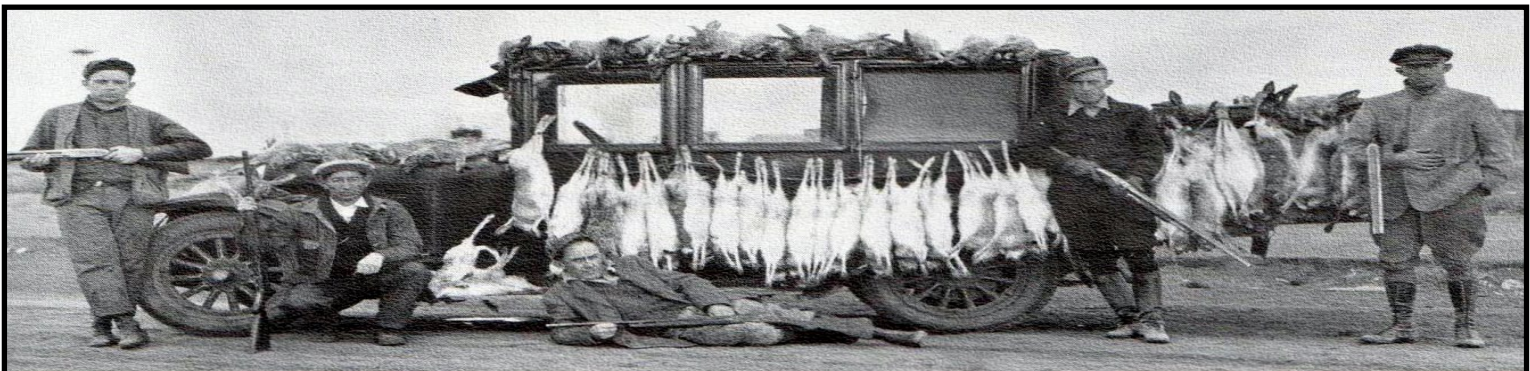
Dick Tweed, master of ceremonies at a dinner in the Hotel Borger following the dedication of St. John's church, Borger, Feb. 25, goes over after-dinner program plans with the Rev. B. A. Erpen, pastor, and Bishop John L. Morkovsky, who officiated at the dedication.



BLACK GOES NEAR
Borger, TEXAS
THOUSANDS OF BARRELS DAILY



Looking east, a light cloud of carbon black floats over nine-month-old Borger on December 29, 1926. At times, the smoke was so dense that the daylight hours appear to be nighttime. Here, the 900 and 800 blocks of North Main Street businesses are established in more permanently constructed buildings. A few tents remain, and many outhouses are in use. Sanitation was a major problem in early Borger.



DEPRESSION TIMES

Borger was no exception to the 1930 depression, even though the area was not as hard hit as others. However, with great ingenuity, the above solved the meat shortage quite handily.



TEXAS LEGENDS

Borger - Rip Roaring "Booger Town"

The largest city in Hutchinson County, Texas, Borger got its start during the Oil Boom of the 1920's. The first oil well in the area was drilled on May 2, 1921, on the 6666 Ranch, and though the strike was of a poor quality, it spawned more drilling in Texas Panhandle. Soon a number of successful wells were producing in the Borger area. In January 1926, Asa Phillip "Ace" Borger, a town site developer, who had earlier established two other oil boomtowns -- Slick and Cromwell, Oklahoma, came to the area to personally check out the reports of the oil boom.

Before long, Borger and John R. Miller, an attorney and old friend from the Oklahoma boomtowns, purchased 240 acres from rancher, John Frank Weatherly, for \$50 per acre. Borger then obtained a grant to organize the Borger Town site Company, with capital stock of \$10,000 divided into 100 shares of \$100 each. The Townsite Company was comprised of Ace Borger, John R. Miller and C. C. Horton of the Gulf Oil Company.

Lot sales began on March 8, 1926, and by the end of the first day, the Borger Townsite Company had grossed between \$60,000 and \$100,000. A post office was opened the next month on April 13th with Lawrence E. Brain as the first postmaster. Over the next months, the Borger Town Company took out full-page ads in area papers promoting settlement in the fledgling town and within a few months time, the boomtown had swelled to a population of 45,000, most lured by sensational advertising and "black gold". Though the population had boomed, many of these new "residents" were transient and lived in tents and shacks.

After six months, Ace Borger sold out his interest in the Borger Townsite Company for more than a million dollars. But, he was not nearly done with development of the town or the area. In October, 1926, the charter incorporating the city of Borger was adopted, and Ace Borger's partner, John R. Miller was elected mayor. By that time, the Panhandle and Santa Fe Railroad had completed a spur line to Borger, a school district had been

established, a newspaper -- the Hutchinson County Herald (now the Borger News-Herald) had started publication and Ace Borger had established a lumberyard. Along Borger's three-mile-long Main Street, also stood the town's first hamburger stand, established by J.D. Williams, as well as a hotel and a jail. Telephone service and steam-generated electricity were available by the end of the year. Before wells were drilled, drinking water was provided in tank wagons.

Area ranchers John R. Weatherly and James A. Whittenburg, also hoped to cash in on the boom, by establishing three rival town sites, Isom, Dixon Creek, and Whittenburg, all next to that of Borger. Later Isom and Dixon Creek were incorporated into the Borger city limits. The town of Whittenburg was merged with the town of Pantex, and became Phillips. In the months that followed, oilmen, roughnecks, prospectors, panhandlers and fortune seekers flooded the oil boomtown and along with them came a number of shadier elements including cardsharks, prostitutes, bootleggers and drug dealers. The city became known as "Booger Town" as it attracted fugitives from the law and some of the toughest hoodlums in the Southwest -- people such as Yellow Young, Ray Terill, Spider Gibson, Wireline Yerkey, and Waltine. J. "Shine" Popejoy, who was known as the "King of Texas Bootleggers".

Making matters worse, the town government soon fell under control of an organized crime syndicate led by Mayor John Miller's shady associate, Richard "Two-Gun Dick" Herwig, a man who was reportedly under indictment for murder in Cromwell, Oklahoma.



Herwig, the town's designated Chief Law Enforcement Officer, brought with him a number of felonious friends to staff his city marshal force and "police" the flourishing town. However, their primary responsibility seems to have been collecting fees from bootleggers and weekly fines from prostitutes.

Herwig and his men sanctioned and supervised wide-open saloons in defiance of Prohibition while supplying the illegal barrooms their own lines of bootlegged alcohol and beer, as well as narcotics. Dixon Street (now Tenth Street) was the center of all the "fun" -- housing brothels, dance halls, speakeasies and gambling dens. Here, some 2,000 prostitutes were said to have practiced their profession, with each paying a weekly "fine" of \$18 to stay in business. In addition to the fines and illegal products provided to the saloons, the city marshals also made money by demanding on-the-spot collections of arbitrary fines from other businesses and ordinary citizens as well as the buying and selling of stolen cars. Murder and robbery became an everyday occurrence, as the "marshals" had no time for the protection of everyday citizens.



Crowds gathered to see what would happen to the slot machines seized by the Texas Rangers. According to official reports in Texas, 203 gambling slot machines were confiscated. These one armed bandits were placed in a vacant lot and smashed. After the Rangers left, gambling went underground. The thousands of dollars contained in the slots were given to city charities. One write stated that slot machines were still operating as late as 1950 and even later in private clubs.

In the summer of 1926, two deputy sheriffs were shot down on a Borger street by one of the many fugitives, who had bought sanctuary from Herwig. Like all homicides at this time, this double murder went unpunished and provoked a crack-down by state and federal authorities. In October, 1926, the town was infiltrated with Prohibition and narcotic agents, U.S. Marshals, and Texas Rangers.

Some 20 bars and gambling dens were padlocked, the illegal liquor

was confiscated, and the gaming equipment was destroyed. Fifty violators were arrested and hundreds more were herded into a domino hall by shotgun-toting federal marshals and strongly advised to relocate. The Federal agents then departed leaving the Rangers to police Borger and dispose of the prisoners, who were soon loaded into trucks and driven to jail in Amarillo. Numerous other “undesirables” were ordered to leave town. By the end of the month, the Texas Rangers declared Borger to be “100% better.” But, their proclamation was far too premature.

Within three months, the criminals were right back in business, at which time Borger was again teeming with slot machines, brothels and more than 20 gambling joints. In the meantime, Sheriff Joe Ownbey was taking no actions and was allegedly receiving frequent payoffs. In late March, gangsters killed a city policeman and on April 1, two of Ownbey’s deputies. By the spring of 1927, a new governor was in place in the Texas capitol, and acting on petitions and investigative reports, Governor Daniel J. Moody sent another detachment of Texas Rangers, under Captains Francis Augustus Hamer and Thomas R. Hickman, to once again rein in the town.

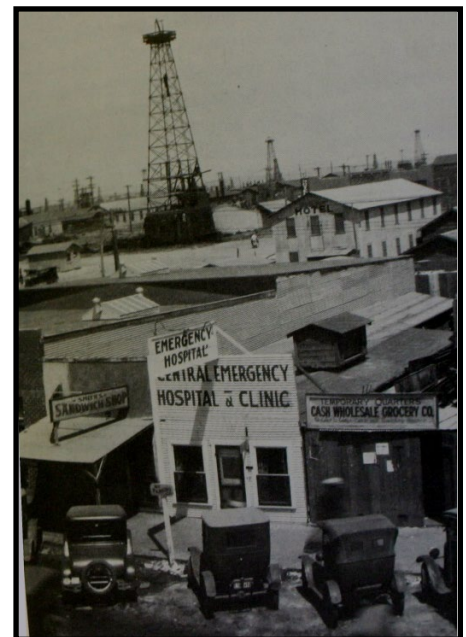
Although the Rangers proved a stabilizing force and compelled many undesirables to once again, leave town, Borger’s wave of crime and violence would continue intermittently into the early 1930s. In the meantime, Texas Governor Moody appointed a new District Attorney to the area in 1928. John A. Holmes was tasked with investigating and prosecuting the many criminals who had infested Borger and the surrounding oil fields. Though Holmes was threatened by gangsters on a number of occasions, he relentlessly continued his probe of crime and corruption in Borger. Just as Holmes was making final preparations to appear before the Hutchinson County grand jury at Stinnett, he was shot down by an unknown assassin on September 13, 1929.

The Holmes slaying was the last straw for Governor Moody. Forty-eight hours after the murder, the Texas Rangers were back in Borger. Two weeks later, the Texas Rangers were joined by the 56th Cavalry of the Texas National Guard. At about 8:30 a.m. on Monday, September 30th, a train of baggage cars, three Pullmans, and freighters pulled into Borger, where ten Texas Rangers were already in place. On that day, martial law was declared for Hutchinson County and the Texas Rangers and the National Guard were tasked by ridding the lawless town and the surrounding area of its criminal elements once and for all. Led by General Jacob F. Wolters, who had earlier been in charge of another city shut down by martial law, the troops disembarked, having an immediate effect on the town. Later, General Wolters would write:

“In every situation where military authority is used to aid the civil power things occur that have either a good or a bad psychological effect. They are, in common parlance, the ‘breaks’ of the game. We had just such a break at Borger. Within one minute after the troops had detrained, a drunk man approached one of the guards. He was promptly put under arrest. This occurrence, in the presence of spectators, had a good psychological effect, however minor the incident was.”



Governor Moody

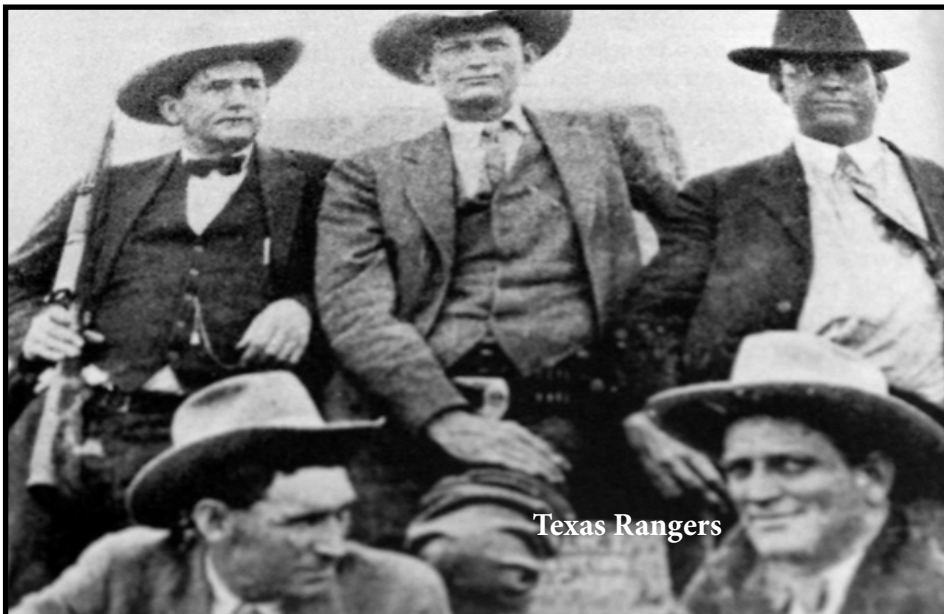


Detachments of officers and soldiers were immediately sent to city hall where Wolter's provost marshal, Colonel Louis S. Davidson, took possession and disarmed all the local lawmen. Another detail drove to Stinnett, the county seat, and removed Sheriff Joe Ownbey and disarmed all of the sheriffs' department personnel. MPs were stationed at all city street intersections in Borger and patrols were sent throughout the city. Members of the police force and constables were disarmed, their uniforms and badges were taken away. City offices, and all records, books and papers of the city of Borger fell under the authority of Provost Marshal. Within hours of his arrival, General Wolters had complete control of the city and county. "Sun-down" orders were issued to every person in the city, man and woman alike, and all "undesirables" were order to get out of town immediately.

A military court of inquiry was quickly established and over the next days and weeks, scores of witnesses gave testimony which officials hoped would result in the conviction of alleged leaders in the county's underworld. By October 10, there were 17 members of the organized criminal ring behind bars. These included Dick Herwig and his henchmen.

On October 5th a committee of citizens called on General Wolters to ask what he required to end martial law. He responded by advising the citizens that he would demand the resignation of the sheriff and all his deputies, the two constables and their deputies, the mayor, the city commission, and all members of the police department. Mayor Glen Pace and Sheriff Joe Ownbey tried some stalling tactics, but, after deliberations involving the district judge and grand jury, all gave in and resigned by mid October.

In the meantime, the Texas Rangers were busy closing every illegal still and saloon, confiscating whiskey and beer, and making arrests. Soldiers were searching for any weapons, and raids were conducted 24 hours a day. Finally, on October 18th, Governor Moody withdrew the military from Borger, and 11 days later, he formally lifted martial law. He granted Texas Ranger, Charles O. Moore a leave of absence for a year to serve as Hutchinson County Sheriff; another ranger would serve as the Chief of Police, and a new District Attorney was appointed.



Sam Jones, a former deputy constable of Borger, and Jim Hodges, a Borger boilermaker, were both indicted for murder in the death of John A. Holmes. They also were charged with bootlegging, and Jones faced a federal count of conspiracy to violate the National Prohibition Act. Jones was released from jail on bonds totaling \$20,000, but he and Hodges never were brought to trial on the murder charges. On Oct. 26, 1945, the state dismissed the murder charges "because in the opinion of the state's attorney, the evidence is insufficient to warrant the probability of a conviction." The case was never solved.

Borger did finally settle down after this latest episode of state involvement. However, there would one more major criminal event -- the killing of town founder and developer Ace Borger on August 31, 1934. Ace had long been extremely generous with many of his friends and acquaintances, while being very tight with others. This often caused hard feelings with some folks. In June, 1930, Ace established the Borger State Bank, with himself as president and his son as vice president. Before the year was even over, the bank failed, causing a panic among local businessmen and small depositors.

This raised the ire of those who didn't like him, especially a man named Arthur Huey, who was the Hutchinson County Treasurer. Ace Borger was later convicted of receiving deposits in the insolvent bank and assessed a two-year prison term. However, he remained free as the judgment was on appeal.

Some time later, Hutchinson County Treasurer, Arthur Huey was jailed for embezzlement and asked the normally generous Ace Borger to bail him out. When Borger re-



Ace Borger

Huey made threats against his life. Huey was able to raise the bail without Borger's help and on August 31, 1934, when Borger was getting his mail at the city post office, Huey shouted obscenities at Borger and shot him five times with a Colt .45. He then took Borger's own .44 and fired four more into him. An innocent bystander was also hit by a shot and died five days later. Amazingly, Huey was acquitted for the murder claiming self-defense. Later; however, Arthur Huey was sent to prison for embezzlement of county funds.

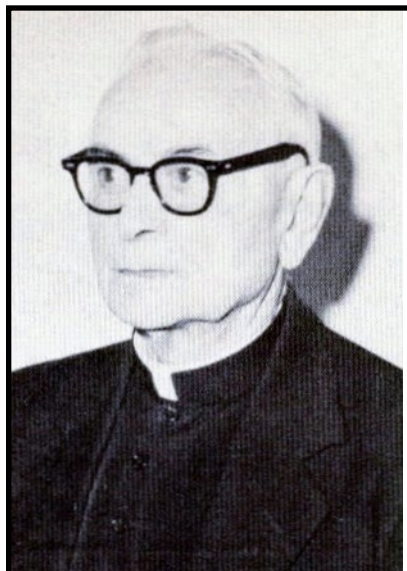
The decade of the 1930's was a mixture of boom and depression for Borger as well as the rest of Hutchinson County. The nation was going through the Great Depression, and the great storms of the Dust Bowl had begun. With ten Carbon black plants in the area, volumes of black soot was added to the Dust Bowl storms, covering the town in layers of dark grime. Many an "Okie" migrant, fleeing from their devastated farms, found jobs in the oilfields and plants. During World War II, synthetic rubber and other petroleum products became important in the Borger area. Borger's population was listed at 14,000 in 1943.

By the 1960s the Borger area was one of the largest producers of oil, carbon black, and petrochemicals and supplies in the state. The creation of nearby Lake Meredith also added to the town's economy as an important recreational area. In 1960, Borger's population was 20,911, but, ten years later had dropped to 14,195. Today, Borger is called home to some 13,000 people and remains an important shipping point for agricultural produce as well as continuing to manufacture numerous petroleum products.

HOLMES HOUSE

BELOW The John A. Holmes house at 407 North Hedgecoke Street is where an unidentified assassin killed District Attorney Holmes on September 13, 1929. Determined to end the lawlessness in Borger, Holmes felt that his life was in danger. He was leaving the garage to go inside when he was shot. This led Gov. Dan Moody to declare martial law in Borger, which took effect at 3:00 p.m. on September 29, 1929. The house is still a residence today





Rev. Andrew Quante

A gentle man went away the other day.

Father Andrew Quante died as he had lived, quietly.

Pictures in our files show him as a seven - year - old boy in the year 1890; as a First Communicant in 1895, at the age of 12 (First Communion was delayed until that age then, and there didn't have to be any arguments about which should come first, Confession or Communion. It was taken for granted that 12- year - olds needed to go to Confession); and as a tuba player in the band at Subiaco Seminary in 1912, when he was 29 and a priest.

The pictures of Father Quante have a remarkable sameness about them, from age seven to the last picture we have taken in 1961, when he observed his 78th birthday; His eyes are open, honest, clear, and his face is mellow, with just the hint of a smile, as if he knew some secret about life that we don't.

It wasn't that Father Quante did not know anything about violence. At Subiaco Academy in Arkansas he was a boxer and a basketball player. He lived in a lean-to rectory in Borger during the sandstorms of the 1930's, and during his rock-hunting days while pastor of Wellington did rattlesnakes in with a .22 rifle.

But violence is a strange word to associate with Father Quante. Gentle is much better, for that is what he was. Gentle with flowers; gentle with the doo-dads he made out of English walnuts and peanut shells; gentle with the rock shrines he built; gentle as he puffed his pipe.

And gentle most of all with people. Gentle with the children and grownups alike. At 69 he was still pitching softball for both sides of children's teams at old St. Mary's school in Groom. With the grownups he played pinochle and domino games. Above all he took care of their spiritual needs, faithful beyond the ordinary to his duties as a pastor.

"He was a perfect priest ... an inspiration ... a swell fellow ... one the best priests we've ever had... A tidy person ... never complained ... a wonderful priest and after all these years ... still the best."

Comments from parishioner when Father Quante celebrated the golden jubilee of his priesthood almost 14 years ago.

What a marvelous world this world would be if we priests could genuinely imitate this gentle man, to live and die as he did and, having learned his secret, to teach it to all the world.

What was his secret?

Father Norbert Kuehler, who had him as his pastor as he was growing up and later followed him into the priesthood, gave the secret away in this simple sentence, "Father taught us to accept inconvenience and to live with it."

There is a world of profound theology in that statement. It's deceptively simple.

But neither Christ nor the saints nor Father Quante ever pretended that Christianity was complicated.

Christ put it in many different ways: The grain of wheat must die before it can live; if you want to be MY disciple, that is, if you want to have peace, personal and lasting peace, you must take up your cross and follow Me; lose your life and you will find it; lay it down willingly and you will live.

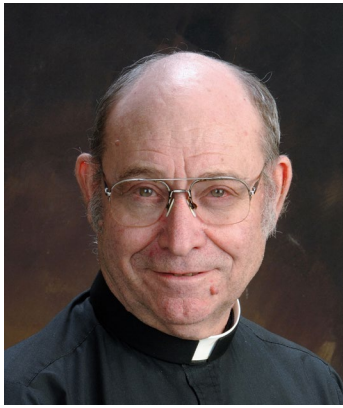
Francis of Assisi, to single out one of the saints, made Christianity so simple that he made it believable for millions of people after him. He really loved poverty, the stigmata he bore, the rags he wore, the murderous wolf of Gubbio, even death itself for him, Sister death.

Father Quante, made pastor of Wellington in 1939, after the dust bowl days, reacted in simple fashion. "I saw weeds, dust, and desolation all around me", he said, "and as I started this flower hobby. First I gathered rocks to build a grotto, and then I planted flowers."

He planted more than flowers. He planted his own heart and in the hearts of those who knew him a deep and abiding love of life. He accepted its inconveniences and lived with them, not as a stoic, grimly bearing what cannot be changed, but as a follower of Christ, believing that the unbearable can be born, the unchangeable changed, the intolerable tolerated, death turned into Life.

He laid down his life as gently as he had lived it, willingly, freely, with just the hint of a smile on his face. He accepted death, the ultimate inconvenience of the human condition and in so doing taught us his last priestly lesson.

L. T. Matthiesen 1/7/72



Rev. John Dalton

You really missed a very interesting and informative program last June if you were not able to attend and hear Fr. John speak on the Gospel of St. John.

I wanted to tell you a little more about Fr. Dalton who has been a priest of the Diocese of Amarillo for the last 34 years.

Born in Amarillo, Father Dalton grew up at St. Francis. A 1957 graduate of Price College, Dr. Dalton then attended the Seminary until 1962. He then joined the Marines, seeing action in 1996-67 in Vietnam. After receiving serious wounds in action, he returned to the States and was discharged in 1968. He then moved to Nazareth to begin farming. Active in the Holy Family Church, he entered the Permanent Diaconate Program. In 1979 he entered Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati.

Father John was ordained for the Diocese of Amarillo on June 19, 1981 on his parents' 44th Wedding Anniversary.



St. Lucien's Restoration Project

Joseph and Theresa Artho	100
Joe and Gracie Lineman	50
Gerald and Sue Diller	200
Richard Brainerd	1000
Ensor Littleton and Velva Kelley	1000

In Honor

Msgr. Kuehler's 60th Anniversary by Holy Family Parish	300
--	-----

Answered Prayers

Robert W. Bauman	75
Gerald Brandt	75
Laurence Casey	75

In Memory

Barbara Honea by Jan McCoy	1000
Manny Perez by Maida Villaseonor	25
Jim McDonoug, Alamo 1978 by Laurence Casey	100

Mark your calendars.

St. Lucien's 75th Anniversary is approaching...

Mass Saturday,
March 19, 2016
Celebrated by
Bishop Zurek
10:am

Reception to follow

MAY 15, 2015 -- AUGUST 15, 2015 MUSEUM/ARCHIVES BUILDING FUND

Mr. & Mrs. James P. Arend	\$100.00
Joe & Theresa Artho	\$500.00
Steve & Lori Beckham	\$200.00
Mr. & Mrs. James J. Brandt	\$ 20.00
Mrs. Vera Crowell	\$ 40.00
Paul F. Engler	\$200.00
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Glenn	\$ 10.00
Msgr. Norbert Kuehler	\$ 50.00
Msgr. Matthew Malnar	\$ 25.00
Sharon Moylan	\$ 20.00
Michelle M. Quinto	\$ 25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Poirot	\$ 25.00
Rev. Scott L. Raef	\$ 40.00
Jane Roberts	\$ 75.00
Bob & Mary Jane Sloan	\$ 20.00
Deborah & John Stich	\$ 25.00
Leo & Audrey Wink	\$100.00

MAY 15, 2015 -- AUGUST 15, 2015

MUSEUM/ARCHIVES MEMBERSHIPS

Peggy Quinto	\$ 20.00
--------------	----------

HONORARIUM

Patrick & Roni Swindell	\$ 60.00
In Honor of Bishop Leroy Matthiesen	

May God
bless you for your
continued and
generous
support!

60 Years A Priest
60th Anniversary
of Msgr. Norbert Kuehler



Ordained May 28, 1955
St. Lucien's Chapel
Diocese of Amarillo

Priests throughout the Diocese of Amarillo joined Bishop Patrick Zurek on May 28 at St. Lucien's Chapel, Amarillo, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood for Monsignor Norbert Kuehler.

Msgr. Kuehler celebrated his anniversary 60 years to the day, in front of the same altar, at St. Lucien's Chapel. Msgr. Kuehler has the distinction of being the only priest to be ordained in St. Lucien's Chapel.

Msgr. is presently Vice President of the Catholic Historical Society (CHS) and Chaplain for the Franciscan Sisters of Mary Immaculate.



“You can't tell where you are going,
unless you know where you have been.”
Have you visited the Museum??



Answered Prayer



"Answered Prayer" numbered prints from a painting donated by artist Jack Sorenson are \$75.00. The painting is of St. Mary's in Clarendon, the first church in the Diocese of Amarillo. These prints were originally sold to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Diocese of Amarillo. There are only 40 of these prints available. Please make checks payable to: St. Lucien's Project and send in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Merely Anecdotal

Bishop Rudolph Aloysius Gerken

In 1927 Rudolph Aloysius Gerken became the first bishop of the new Diocese of Amarillo at the young age of 39. Gerken soon found dissension among the FBI (Foreign born Irish) priests who vented jealous wrath because of the appointment of a German-American bishop. If you are interested how this was resolved we have - copies of the book "Seemingly Conspiring" for sale

Bishop Gerken took an active part in the recruitment of priests and never stopped asking bishops, heads of orders, and individual priests for help. He visited every corner of his vast diocese and went to work. One very hot summer day the bishop went to Midland for Confirmation, It was sweltering inside the church, everyone was restless, and the babies were crying, the children to be confirmed were also crying, but Bishop Gerken continued undaunted until the end. Later when he arrived at Slaton for lunch one of the priests asked him how it had gone. "Oh, it was a howling success" he retorted.



sgarner

Cookbook



"Plump shrimp, sautéed with chile flakes and served with a salad of oyster mushrooms, cucumber and corn, turned out to be everything I wanted on a Saturday morning: fresh, vibrant and crunchy, with just enough spicy zing to wake me up."

The CHS is publishing a cookbook full of Bishop Zurek's, and our priests' and religious' recipes to raise money for the museum. It is going to print soon. The cost will be \$17.50. Wouldn't this be a lovely Christmas gift? We will let you know when it is available.

Includes such recipes as:

Fr. Schmitmeyer's "Cardinal Bernadine's Carbonara"

Sr. Janet's Italian Breaded Meat

Fr. Bhaskar's Chicken Biryani Andhra Style

School Sister's of St. Francis' Sopapilla Cheesecake Bars

Bishop Zurek's Fresh Peach Cream Pie

Father John Valdez's Zucchini Chocolate Cake

Msgr. Bixenman's Two Minute Hawaiian Pie

Msgr. Waldow's Roast Beef with a can of beer (says he is German in regard to this ingredient...)



P.O. Box 5644
Amarillo, TX 79117-5644

Return Services Requested

PLEASE LET US KNOW
Address corrections
when moving
Wishing to discontinue
Receiving duplicates
SO WE MAY UPDATE
OUR MAILING LIST
THANKS!

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 309
AMARILLO, TX

The Museum is Growing!



Stored Stations of the Cross and Communion Rail from Sacred Heart Cathedral that we will be able to put on display in the larger museum.

The Museum is going from
1500 feet to 5000 feet !

Please Help Us Grow...

We are in need of donations for display cases, shelving, and everything that goes into setting up a new or larger museum. If you are interested in purchasing a display case, (\$2,000) an engraved brass plate will be installed with your family's name.

Please Help us Grow.